Amendment to the Specification

-Replacing the section from lines 16 to 25 on page 5 of the Specification with the following:

"The first copies of cDNA were synthesized using two synthesized oligonucleotides SEQ ID NO:1 and 2 (Genosys biotechnologies, Europe, Ltd., France) with the following sequences: 5'CACATTGCATTTG3' (SEQ ID NO:1) and 5'CTGTCTGTCTCA3' (SEQ ID NO:2). These oligonucleotides SEQ ID NO:1 and 2 were selected by taking the complementary sequence to allow RT. The oligonucleotide SEQ ID NO:1 was based on the SMN sequence described by Lefebvre *et al.* [16] between base pairs 1097 and 1109. The oligonucleotide SEQ ID NO:2 was based on the sequence of the HUMEF1AB gene, encoding for the human elongation factor 1-alpha (EF1A), described by Ann *et al.* [20] between base pairs 881 and 892."

-Replacing the section from lines 14 to 24 on page 6 of the Specification with the following:

"Four synthesized oligonucleotides SEQ ID NO:3 to 6 (Genosys) were used. They have the following sequences:

5'CCAGGTCTAAAATTCAATGG3' (SEQ ID NO:3) for the forward primer of SMN,

5'CTGTCTGATCGTTTCTTTAG3' (SEQ ID NO:4) for the reverse primer of SMN,

5'TGTATTGGATTGCCACACG3' (SEQ ID NO:5) for the forward primer of HUMEF1AB and

5'CTTCAGCTCAGCAAACTTG3' (SEQ ID NO:6) for the reverse primer of HUMEF1AB.

The oligonucleotides SEQ ID NO:3 and 5 (forward primers) were based on the SMN and HUMEF1AB sequences between base pairs 661-680 and 672-690 respectively. The oligonucleotides SEQ ID NO:4 and 6 (reverse primers) were based on the SMN and HUMEF1AB sequences between base pairs 957-976 and 705-723 respectively, in this case however, taking the complementary sequence to allow PCR."

-Replacing the section from lines 6 to 16 on page 8 of the Specification with the following:

"The RT products were first amplified by the PCR technique performed in the same conditions as described previously using the synthesized oligonucleotides SEQ ID NO:5 and 6 for HUMEF1AB gene and the synthesized oligonucleotides SEQ ID NO:4, 7, 8 and 9 for SMN gene. They have the following sequences:
5'GTTTCAGACAAAATCAAAAAG3' (SEQ ID NO:7) (forward primer),
5'TCCTTAATTTAAGGAATGTGA3' (SEQ ID NO:8) (reverse primer),
5'GAAATGCTGGCATAGAGCAG3' (SEQ ID NO:9) (forward primer).
The oligonucleotides SEQ ID NO:7 and 9 (forward primers) were based on exons 7 and 8 of the SMN sequences between base pairs 869 - 889 and 922 - 941 respectively. The oligonucleotide SEQ ID NO:8 (reverse primer) was based on exon 7 of the SMN sequence between base pairs 901 and 921, in this case, however, taking the complementary sequence to allow PCR.

- Please amend the specification by replacing the previous sequence listing with the attached paper copy of the revised sequence listing.